Billie Holiday’s song “Strange Fruit” provides listeners with an eerie tone and brutal imagery of lynchings in the south that connects to the themes in Harper Lee’s novel To Kill a Mockingbird. Ironically, the “fruit,” which connotes life and health, is not fruit at all; instead, it symbolizes black men and women who have been hanged simply because of their skin color. The hopeful and peaceful ‘pastoral’ setting of a tree of life instantly changes as the smell of rotting and burning flesh surrounds the area. Similarly, Harper Lee’s novel To Kill a Mockingbird presents readers with the theme of racism. Tom Robinson is falsely accused of raping white Mayella Ewell when all he did was try to help her. His brutal shooting seventeen times in the stomach illustrates the ‘senseless slaughter of songbirds’ theme from the novel. Like the rotting bodies hanged from the tree, Tom Robinson’s fruitful life is also killed. “Strange Fruit,”while not representing the type of death that Tom Robinson experiences, serves as a reminder of the racism and hatred that exists in much of the south in the early twentieth century.